

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 DHA-02

/043 W

-----131724Z 031744 /43

R 131601Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SFRC TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE

1. PORTIONS OF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SFRC WERE WIDELY PLAYED IN THE GREEK MEDIA, WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON HIS VIEWS ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, ON GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE RELATED U.S. DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS (DCA'S). MR. VANCE'S REMARKS ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN POLICY ALSO RECEIVED ATTENTION. WHILE MOST REPORTING WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND FACTUAL, SOME NEWSPAPERS TENDED TO INTERPRET THE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S COMMENTS THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW IDEAS ON CYPRUS TO MEAN U.S. MEDIATION WILL BE SOON FORTHCOMING.

2. FOR INSTANCE, INDEPENDENT PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI HEADLINED ITS OTHERWISE FACTUAL REPORT "VANCE: AID WILL BE INTERRUPTED TO COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS-- HE WILL TAKE AN INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS IMMEDIATELY". LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA ALSO REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT, ENTITLING ITS ARTICLE "VANCE SEEKS NEW ROADS

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REGARDING THE CYPRUS ISSUE". CONSERVATIVE VRADYNI CHARACTERIZED AS "UNJUSTIFIED FOR THE MOMENT" SENATOR PELL'S CONCERN OVER RATIFICATION OF THE DCA'S BECAUSE NEITHER VANCE NOR CARTER HAVE YET EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON THE PACTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ORGAN OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR, RIZOSPASTIS, WROTE THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO GRANT AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH

VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS. PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS COMPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER WAS RENEGING ON TWO CAMPAIGN PROMISES; TO ELIMINATE CIA INTERVENTION ABROAD AND TO CUT OFF AID TO COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS. IT NOTED THAT TURKEY MAY WELL BECOME A U.S. AID RECIPIENT IN SPITE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN CYPRUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. EDITORIALS TO DATE HAVE BEEN FEW. KATHIMERINI'S EDITORIAL DWELT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND SAID THAT WHILE THE U.S. WAS OFTEN QUICK TO LAMBAST OTHER NATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE U.S. CRITERIA WERE NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT. THE EDITORIAL CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR NOT JOINING IN PROTESTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY TURKEY IN CYPRUS. IT ALSO OPPOSED CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF THE DCA'S WITH TURKEY AND GREECE BECAUSE APPROVAL WOULD PROVE THAT PRAGMATISM WAS STRONGER THAN MORALITY. ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA, IN ITS EDITORIAL CALLED "LAST PHASE", SAW THIS AS PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL STEP TOWARDS REACHING A RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION. MR. VANCE'S STATEMENTS, IT EMPHASIZED, COINCIDE WITH MOVEMENT BY THE EC-9. HOWEVER, THE SOLUTION, IT PREDICTED, WILL BE BASED ON VANCE'S "NEW IDEAS" WHICH IN ESSENCE WILL BE KISSINGER'S "OLD ONES". RIZOSPASTIS CALLED VANCE AN EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR, BUT AGREED THAT THE "NEW IDEAS" WILL SIMPLY BE A NEW VERSION OF THE KISSINGER PLAN AND A CONTINUATION OF THE PARTITION SCHEME OF ACHESON WHICH VANCE TRIED TO GET ACCEPTED IN 1967.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, UPPER HOUSE, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS00365
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770013-0707
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770157/aaaabxes.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 724370da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3610264
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO SFRC TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/724370da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009